



409 Missouri Avenue Deer Lodge, MT 59722 406-846-3680

March 4, 2011

Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Committee Donald R. Steinbeisser, Chairman Capitol Building, Room 335 Helena, MT 59601

Re: House Bill 318

Dear Chairman Steinbeisser and Committee Members:

The Powell County Commissioners regret that we cannot testify in person on this important House bill. Other duties prevent us from attending the hearing, but please add our support of this legislation.

We believe that the county government should be the governance on whether the department moves wild buffalo or bison in the county. We are predominately a rural cow production county. Our residents deserve and are entitled to protect their way of life. We, as Powell County Commissioners, are elected to help preserve our county values and all residents' way of life. We would be remiss in our duties to allow wild bison or buffalo into our county without the input of our residents.

We appreciate Representative Warburton's efforts for all rural Montanans on this House Bill.

Powell County supports and recommends a DO PASS ON HOUSE BILL 318.

Sincerely,

Powell County Board of Commissioners

Cele Pohle, Presiding Officer

Donna Young, Member

Nalph E. Mannix, Jr., Member